

STARTING OCTOBER 2020:

1

MoEYI goes Digital with e-Textbooks

The MoEYI will commence a phased introduction of its electronic textbooks to replace the printed textbooks in the new academic year, which will commence on September 7.

2

New Curriculum Model for Schools

A new curriculum model will be implemented when schools open for the 2020 / 2021 academic year in September. The MoEYI has developed a guide tabled in the Emergencies in Education Manual which outlines dual learning approaches:- Face-to-Face model and

3

Increased Access to 6th form

The MoEYI has restructured the Career Advancement Programme to benefit all students who have completed Grade 11. As a result, in the new academic year, all Grade 11 students will transition into one of three pathways: 1. 6th form Pathway 1 (Traditional) 2. 6th form Pathway 11 (Technical) 3. 6th form Pathway III (General).

4

Tablets & Laptops for PATH students

Students on the PATH programme will begin receiving tablets or laptops to ensure that they have access to online learning materials.



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Why EduPulse?

Welcome to the inaugural edition of EduPulse, a bi-monthly publication of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information. This periodical is aimed at providing the team at Central Ministry, within the seven Regions and Agencies, as well as the wider public with updates and information relating to current initiatives, programmes and policies.

We acknowledge that there are already a number of vibrant and robust social media platforms namely Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and the Ministry's website through which you can obtain information on our work. Our aim, however, is to provide targeted information through this platform, as well as an avenue for you to seek clarification on current issues. We believe this newsletter can be a great way to engage with members of staff, the wider education sector and the public by providing additional tidbits of information

media. A limited number of each publication will be available in hard copy. However, a soft copy will be disseminated electronically via email and on social media platforms.

Each edition will highlight the work of a specific Division, Unit or Agency, and how this affects the education system as a whole. In this edition, we are focusing on the preparations for the start of the 2020 -2021 Academic Year and steps being undertaken by the Department of School Services under the direction of Acting Chief Education Officer, Dr Kasan Troupe. We are paying particular attention to the Covid-19 protocols to mitigate the spread of disease. We invite you to make use of our email contact to send feedback and your queries.

EduPulse – to us and to you. We trust that you will find the publications useful and encourage you to share them as much as possible.

Publication Committee: Colin Steer | Dwayne Cargill | Desree Ebanks | Corrine Duffus

5 BACK TO SCHOOL for parents Tips

By Kaysia Kerr, CEO - National Parenting Support Commission

- 1 Parents should contact schools to find out what schooling modality has been implemented. The modalities recommended by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MoEYI) are Online Classes, Home School, Rotation, Whole Day and
- 2 If a child has a compromised immune system, parents should contact the MoEYI to indicate their interest in Home Schooling their child.
- 3 Get all information about safety and precautionary measures that have been implemented at school.
- 4 Parents should continue to explain to their child or children that the world is still experiencing a pandemic and they should model safety practices so that children will also practice same at school, at home or on the road.
- 5 Parents should ensure that they do not wait until the last minute to get adequate school supplies which should include: a sanitizer, wipes, washcloths and masks.

TLC, Digicel Foundation donate 100 tablets for vulnerable students



(From left) Founding pastors of Transformed Life Church, Rev Dwight Fletcher and Rev Joan Fletcher with Janet Brimm, Regional director, MoEYI, Region 2, Carlington Johnson, Principal of Carron Hall High School and Andreth Gardener- Principal, Long Road Primary at Carron High School for the handover of 100 tablets to students courtesy of Transformed Life Church.

Every Child Can Learn Every Child Must Learn



Chief Education Officer (Acting) in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Dr Kasan Troupe

OVERVIEW OF Department of School Services

The Department of School Services (DSS) was created in the reorganization of the Central Ministry to provide a streamlined central policy function in the core part of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MoEYI) and a coherent entity to provide services to schools. The DSS is that service delivery body, incorporating the seven Regional Offices.

The Chief Education Officer, as head of DSS, is responsible for providing overall leadership for school governance and the general leadership of the Education Officers. The DSS operates by delegated authority from the Permanent Secretary of the MoEYI. It is governed by the Ministry's policies and standards and works to operationalize these policies in schools.

Some of the Roles and Functions of DSS

- ✓ To provide a coordinated and integrated service and support to primary and secondary educational institutions across the island to enable the continuous improvement of learning outcomes;
- ✓ To coordinate continuous professional development for schools;
- ✓ To coordinate special projects implemented to support schools;
- ✓ To establish proactive measures to deal with critical incidents in schools;
- ✓ To coordinate the safety and security related activities to support schools;
- ✓ To provide support to schools for the coordination of fundraising activities and to maintain a database of such activities; and
- ✓ To provide support to schools for the maintenance of infrastructure

Jamaica, like the rest of the world continues to grapple with the prevention and containment of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Jamaica recorded its first imported and locally transmitted cases on March 10, 2020 and the Government subsequently directed the closure of all schools effective March 13, 2020.

Consistent with educational responses during disaster periods, the launched its Education in Emergencies Response Plan which focused on addressing the learning, wellbeing, nutritional, safety and parenting needs of our learners at all levels of the education system. The MoEYI collaborated with school leaders, teachers, parents and educational and international development partners, to provide the requisite support, which enabled the continued teaching and learning of our students while they were not physically in school.

The Ministry activated an emergency remote learning programme to include online/virtual/computer-aided asynchronous and synchronous learning experiences, printed learning kits, radio education series and televised learning. This was enabled by the provision of training for school leaders and teachers in virtual leadership, pedagogy, and safety protocols, curriculum support, appropriate policy guidelines, access to subsidised internet/mobile data to support online engagements, subsidized and fully funded access to digitised content and other e-resources, access to technological devices and e-tools. To ensure equity and inclusion, special attention was given to students at the early childhood level, students with special needs, students in remote areas with limited access to internet and students and families on the Programme for Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH).

Readiness for the reopening of schools in September

- ✓ The Ministry has prepared and disseminated a series of publications to support school readiness:
 - Education in Emergencies Manual for the Reopening of Educational Institutions
 - Education in Emergencies Standard Operating Procedure for Teachers
 - Education in Emergencies Models of Curriculum Implementation for the Reopening of Schools.
 - Education in Emergencies COVID-19 Reopening Protocols for Early Childhood Institutions.
 - Framework for the Rental of Temporary Learning Spaces
 - Framework for the Distribution of Tablets in Schools
 - Modified curriculum and diagnostic assessment tools
- ✓ The Ministry continues to provide leadership and capacity building opportunities for our school leaders and teachers. To date, in excess of 2500 school leaders have been trained in virtual instructional leadership, over 20,000 teachers have been exposed to virtual pedagogy and over 13,000 school staff have been trained in infection and prevention control measures in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Wellness.
- ✓ A series of consultations and empowerment sessions have been held across the education sector to include students, parents, teachers, principals, school boards, educational service providers, international development partners among other critical stakeholders to solicit feedback to inform decisions.



Ms. Kaysia Kerr, CEO of the National Parenting Support Commission presenting at one of the Parent Information Sessions for Back to School Update in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- ✓ Inter-ministerial partnerships with the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW) which has resulted in an initial and on going health inspections of all educational institutions to ensure that safety precautions remain paramount. All educational institution will be approved for opening by the Ministry of Health before classes resume as a key safety measure.
- ✓ School grants have been disbursed to all infant, primary, secondary and tertiary institutions to aid with the general preparation and operation of schools to include:
 - Janitorial/ Sanitization Services
 - Teaching and Learning Materials
 - Repair and Maintenance
 - ICT resources
 - Staffing support
- ✓ Provision and ongoing distribution of tablets/computers to students on PATH and other needy students. Approximately 3Bn is budgeted for the provision of tablets/computers for the academic year.
- ✓ Provision of a textbooks, workbooks, a national Learning Management System, access to e-resources and subsidized data/internet access to support online learning.
- ✓ Provision of nutritional support as well as psychosocial support to include counselling, empowerment sessions and spiritual inspiration for students, staff and parents.
- ✓ Printing service and printed Learning Kits to include worksheets, handouts, activity booklets, workbooks etc., for students especially those with connectivity issues, will be provided by the MoEYI in collaboration with the school leaders/ teachers. Each Regional Office will be equipped with printing machines for the period September 7-30, 2020, in the first instance, to ensure readiness of materials ahead of the formal start of the school year effective Oct. 5, 2020.
- ✓ Televised lessons are being prepared for the primary level to commence effective October 5, 2020. These lessons will be aligned to the National Standards Curriculum. These will be available via the Ministry's eHomeSchool Network and PBCJ. A national timetable will be shared by September 14, 2020. Lessons will be shared via these networks from Mondays to Fridays with a repeat on Saturdays and Sundays. The PBCJ and eHSN can be accessed via the 25 local cable stations. Lessons will also be made available through agreed free to airtime via TVJ/CVM/JIS.

It is the Ministry's thrust to remain responsive to the changing needs of schools as we aim to support the reforms and rebuilding efforts as well as to enable and unearth the seeds of opportunities in order for all stakeholders to successfully navigate the new normal.



NCEL and the Spotlight Initiative Partner to Create Safer Schools. (L-R) Dr. Grace McLean Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Youth & Information; Dr. Taneisha Ingleton, NCEL; Ms. Mariko Kagoshima, UNICEF's Country Representative and (standing) Ms. Nova McKay, Coordinator of the Spotlight Initiative

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